GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3423
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2004
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MUSLIMS
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Census 2001 has generated more heat than light on the conditions of Muslims in India;

(b) if so, whether Muslim lag behind in every field like literacy, population, employment and overall economic conditions;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to bring out a white paper on the status of muslims in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to link its efforts on muslims with internationally recognized welfare objectives as required in the UN`s Millenium Development Goals declaration; and

(g) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a)&(b): As per the Census 2001, the literacy and work participation rate for Muslims in the country as a whole has been 59.1% and 31.3% respectively.

The decadal growth rate of Muslim population for 1991-2001 (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) has been 29.3 percent.

The Muslims have registered the highest decadal growth rate of population if compared with the other main religious communities. They are, however, lower in literacy and work participation rates.

(c)to(e): The Government has been taking various measures for welfare of Minorities, which includes Muslims. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has been providing concessional finance to the minorities living below double the poverty line for self-employment. Rs.610 crores covering 2.20 lakh beneficiaries have been disbursed since its inception in 1994.

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) safeguards the interests of the Minorities. The Government has decided to grant constitutional status to the NCM.

The Government has in October 2004 set up a National Commission to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections amongst religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment.

(f)&(g): The UN`s Millennium Development Goals are meant for the welfare of all the people in the country and are not aimed at specific category/section of the population within the country.